

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5. (Canceled).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A support material for an An electrocatalyst in fuel cells comprising a furnace carbon black, having a hydrogen content of greater than 4200 ppm, determined by CHN analysis, and a peak integral ratio, determined by inelastic neutron scattering, of non-conjugated hydrogen atoms (1250 cm^{-1} – 2000 cm^{-1}) to aromatic and graphitic hydrogen atoms (1000 cm^{-1} – 1250 cm^{-1} and 750 cm^{-1} – 1000 cm^{-1}) of less than 1.22 ~~1.22, wherein said furnace black is the support material for said electrocatalyst.~~